

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary _ Public

Date: 7/11/2014

GAIN Report Number: IN4060

India

Post: New Delhi

Monsoon Report - 3

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Approved By:

Jonn Slette

Prepared By:

Amit Aradhey

Report Highlights:

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), monsoonal precipitation over June 1-18, 2014 was 45 percent below normal. However, media reports indicate cumulative rainfall deficit at 37 percent below normal. As a result, crop planting progress for *kharif* (fall and early harvested) has been slow. The window of opportunity for planting most *kharif* crops such as rice, coarse grains, soybeans, cotton, peanuts, and pulses extends through the middle of July.

General Information:

Monsoon progress

According to the [IMD's press release](#), the southwest monsoon has advanced to cover most of India's southern, eastern and northeastern states. However, its progress has been delayed particularly in western central India, and north central India (Figure 1). According to the IMD, cumulative rainfall levels during June 1-18 were 45 percent below the long period average (LPA) of 78.8 mm. More recent media reports indicate that cumulative rainfall levels are 37 percent below normal. Rainfall during first 18 days of receipt of monsoon was recorded below normal in 28 sub-divisions out of the total 36 meteorological sub-divisions in India (Figure 2). IMDs weather outlook from June 24 through June 27 indicates a possibility of rainshowers or thunderstorms across the northeastern states, West Bengal, and the southern peninsular region. The remaining areas of India are expected to receive isolated rains, although western Rajasthan will remain dry through at least June 27.

Water Storage Across Major Reservoirs

According to the latest data available from the Ministry of Agriculture, water levels across 85 major reservoirs was 39.32 billion cubic meters (bcm) as compared to 31.23 bcm during the corresponding period in 2013 of normal storage as of June 12 (26.06 bcm normal average over the last 10 years).

Current reservoir levels are 126 percent over 2013 and 151 percent of the normal storage (the Central Water Commission monitors 85 major reservoirs in the country which have a total live capacity of 154.88 billion cubic meters (bcm) at full reservoir level).

Kharif planting makes a slow start

Delays in the southwest monsoon have slowed down the planting progress for *kharif* crops. Preliminary reports indicate were planted on 7.53 million hectares (excludes coarse cereals), down 255,000 hectares below the corresponding period last year. A forecast of scattered to widespread rains for the current week across Kerala, coastal Karnataka, eastern and northeastern states should facilitate nursery sowing and transplanting of rice while in remaining regions its likely to be delayed. The window of opportunity for planting most *kharif* crops extends through mid-July. Rains in July and August are critical for crop development. Excessive rains in a few places could delay planting of *kharif* crops.

Table 1. India: Kharif Planting Progress as on June 20, 2014, In Million Hectares

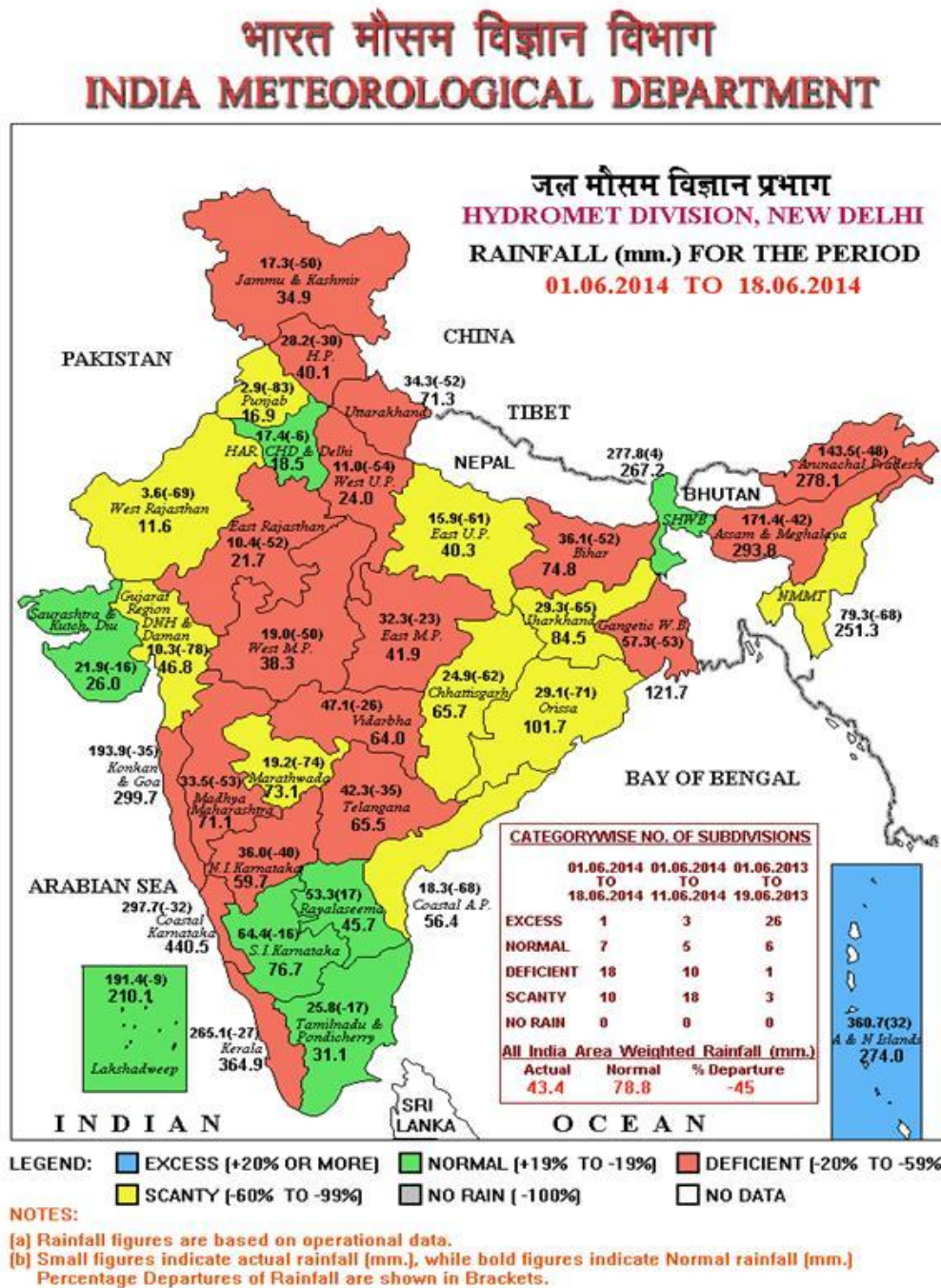
Crop	Area planted in 2014	Area planted in 2013
Rice	0.76	1.64
Pulses	0.26	0.37
Coarse cereals	1.23	NA
Sugarcane	4.39	4.45
Oilseeds	0.12	0.81
Cotton	2.00	2.81

Source: [PIB Press Release](#)

NA: Not Available

Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Figure 2. India: Rainfall during the period starting June 1 to June 18, 2014



Source: Indian Meteorological Department